

CARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

Congratulations on the acquisition of your new puppy! We trust that your new pet will bring you many years of joy and we hope that the following notes will help answer any questions you may have about the care of your new puppy.



Worming

Your dog should be wormed regularly to prevent infestation with roundworm and tapeworm. As a puppy, your dog should be wormed every month until he or she is 6 months old. Then every 3 months for life. It is important to remember that worms are a health risk to humans.

Vaccinations

Your puppy can be vaccinated from 8 weeks of age and occasionally earlier in high risk cases, to protect against Parvovirus, Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza. A second vaccination will need to be given two weeks later to ensure adequate protection against these diseases. It is recommended that you do not start to take your dog for walks outside the confines of your own garden until at least two weeks following the second injection. An additional vaccination is recommended at 16 weeks for Parvovirus. Following this initial course, your dog will then need yearly health checks and vaccinations to maintain this immunity.

Kennel Cough

This is an intranasal vaccine which provides protection against the most important form of Kennel Cough for up to 12 months. Many kennels insist on dogs being protected by this vaccine and it should be administered two weeks or more before your dog goes into kennels. This vaccine does not mean that your dog will not develop a cough as there are a variety of respiratory tract viruses which may be contracted from other dogs, and for which vaccines are not available, however, your dog will be protected from the most common and serious form of Kennel Cough.

Flea Prevention

If you notice your dog scratching, it may have fleas. The products available through veterinary surgeries target not only the adult flea, but help to break the flea life cycle. Our veterinary staff will be happy to discuss the products available with you.

Neutering

There are a huge number of unwanted animals in this country. Neutering is recommended to help control this problem, as well as for associated health benefits. Spaying your bitch before her first season dramatically reduces the risk of mammary tumours in later life, and also removes the possibility of pyometra (*an infected uterus*) and false



pregnancies. Castrating a male dog will prevent roaming and can help to reduce aggression. Your veterinary surgeon will be able to discuss spaying and castration with you in greater depth.



Microchipping

A microchip is a small implant the size of a grain of rice which is placed under the skin between the shoulder blades of your pet. This chip is encoded with a number which is unique to you and your pet. The details are registered for life at a central database. Should your pet be lost or stolen, vets and most rescue organisations will scan for this microchip and should then be able to contact you.

Diet

Diet plays a very important part of your puppy's development to ensure they get off to the best start. It is essential they receive a good diet, providing the correct nutrients, minerals and other requirements a puppy needs for growth, development, for joints, good coat and vision. Speak to your practice nurse who will be happy to discuss diet with you in more detail.

It is also important to remember that puppies have small stomachs, over feeding can leave them feeling uncomfortable. It is advisable to feed small meals, little and often.

Feed 4 – 6 times daily from weaning up 6 months of age

Feed 3 – 4 times daily from 6 months up to 12 months of age

Feed 2 – 3 times daily from 12 months onwards

Do not exceed the recommended daily feeding amount in 24 hours

Tit bits are required for training purposes, but give sensible treats and monitor weight. Good feeding techniques should prevent obesity later in life.

IMPORTANT: Do not feed immediately before or after exercise.

Puppy Socialisation

It is important to socialise your puppy by introducing him or her to as many new things as possible. Remember, the things they come into contact with will probably be the first time they have experienced it. Reward good behaviour and ignore any fearful behaviour unless there is a good reason for it.

Some of the things your puppy should experience whilst he or she is still very young are, people of all ages, children on bikes, cats, horses, cows, sheep, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, fireworks, traffic and a veterinary surgeon!

Insurance

We strongly advise that all animals are insured. Our staff will be happy to discuss this with you. Please read the small print on any policy carefully prior to accepting it. We recommend a free 4 weeks Pet Plan policy when you have your new puppy vaccinated which can be converted to a full policy at the end of this period, go to www.petplan.co.uk for more information.

If you have any further questions about the topics covered in this handout, please feel free to ask our team.